

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3174

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23887

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH REPORTER'S VIEWS ON PCP

1. FRENCH JOURNALIST WHO HAS FOLLOWED PORTUGAL CLOSELY FROM THE VERY BEGINNING AND HAS ACQUIRED REPUTATION OF BEING BEST INFORMED REPORTER ON PORTUGUESE SITUATION TALD LABATT FOLLOWING ON SEPTEMBER 14 WHEN HE RETURNED FROM THREE MONTHS STAY IN LISBON:

A) HE HAS IT FROM GOOD AUTHORITY THAT SERIOUS DIVISION OF OPINION IS DEVELOPING WITHIN PCP ARISING OUT OF CRITICISM OF CUMHAL'S STRATEGY IN RECENT MONTHS AND FEELING THAT A NEED FOR CHANGE EXISTS.

B) AS A RESULT OF FOREGOING CUNHAL'S AUTHORITY IS BEING CHALLENGED BY A GROUP WHICH IS REPORTEDLY HEADED BY CARLOS ALBUIN INGLES WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED TO LISBON FROM MOSCOW WHERE HE HAS LIVED FOR A LONG TIME. HE IS, DESCRIBED AS "CLOSE TO SOVIET LEADERSHIP." THIS HAS GIVEN RISE TO RENEWED QUESTIONING AS TO WHETHER CUNHAL HAS BEEN ACTING ON HIS OWN WITHOUT ENDORSEMENT FROM THE
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SOVIETS OR HAD SIMPLY GONE BEYOND SOVIET ADVICE.

C) PCP IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP FACADE OF UNITY BECAUSE OF THE APPARENT STRENGTH CUNHAL STILL HAS WITHIN THE PARTY AND DIFFIVULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY HIS OPPONENTS IN CHALLENGING SUCCESSFULLY HIS AUTHORITY.

D) REGARDLESS OF BROAD POLICY REVISION, PCP IS ABOUT TO MODIFY ITS STAND REGARDING INTERSYNDICAL AND TO ADVOCATE TRADE UNION PLURALISM INSTEAD OF THE HERETOFORE LINE OF A UNITARY LABOR MOVEMENT. THIS HAS BEEN DICTATED BY THE GROWING NUMBER OF DEFEATS THE PARTY HAS SUFFERED IN TRADE UNION ELECTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN WON BY RIVAL SLATES MOSTLY DOMINATED BY PSP.

2. ANOTHER INTERESTING BIT OF INFORMATION REPORTED BY FOREGOING JOURNALIST IS THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH HE HEARD RECENTLY THE MILITARY, INCLUDING OFFICERS COMPLAINING THAT "RUNNING A GOVERNMENT WAS A COMPLICATED BUSINESS AND SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE CIVILIANS." THE SOURCE SAID THAT NONE SHOULD HAVE ANY ILLUSIONS THAT THIS IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN SOON, BUT HE HOUGHT NOTEWORTHY THAT SUDDENLY THE POINT OF VIEW IS BEING ARTICULATED, APPARENTLY SERIOUSLY.
RUSH

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